

Texas A&M The Battalion



WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:
Cloudy to partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

HIGH:90s

LOW:70s

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College Station, Texas

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Troops leave Chinese center as protest calms

BEIJING (AP) — Thousands of the troops responsible for the violent crackdown on the movement for freedom evacuated the city center Wednesday, spraying gunfire as they passed Chinese and diplomatic residential areas.

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Most of the troops from the 27th Army, riding in a convoy of hundreds of trucks and support vehicles, appeared to be shooting into the air, although some were seen

aiming at an apartment complex where hundreds of diplomats and other foreigners live.

Some of the troops were crouched low and others were behind boards, apparently seeking cover from possible return fire. Rival military factions are reported stationed inside the city and on the outskirts.

The troops chanted, "Down with corruption, we love the people, we love the capital, we love youth, long live the Communist Party," as they left their positions in Tiananmen Square, the symbolic center of China.

People along the sidewalks initially

cheered when they heard the chanting, but one office worker said, "They can sing any slogan they want but then they start shooting."

Other troops and tanks of the 27th Army remained in and around Tiananmen Square. It was not known if the army was conducting a complete evacuation.

It was the 27th that drove pro-democracy demonstrators from the center of Beijing on Saturday on orders from the hard-line hierarchy, killing hundreds in the most violent suppression of a popular movement in Communist China's 40-year history.

On Tuesday, the 27th Army traded gun-

fire with the 28th Army, believed loyal to Zhao Ziyang, a moderate who challenged the conservatives and was stripped of his post as Communist Party leader. No casualties were reported.

Soldiers continued firing into crowds around Beijing on Tuesday and early Wednesday. Witnesses said a small boy was killed and a girl wounded in the head Tuesday. Police in riot gear cruised the streets in vans as night fell, beating up and shooting passers-by.

Anti-government demonstrations spread to Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu, Shenyang and other cities.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the United States has been in contact with midlevel Chinese officials but failed to contact top-level officials. "The assumption has been that the top-level people have moved out to other locations," he said.

On Tuesday, in the first appearance of a top official since the crackdown began, government spokesman Yuan Mu said China is "not afraid" of the universal condemnation that greeted its action against the pro-democracy campaign.

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Photo by Frederick D. Joe

Bedding down

A Texas A&M grounds maintenance crew works steadily through the hot afternoon

Tuesday to replant the flower bed in front of the System Administration Building.

Bush administration urges Americans to leave China

WASHINGTON (AP) As rival troops squared off in Beijing, the Bush administration said Tuesday that China's senior leaders appeared to have left the capital and urged the 1,440 Americans in the city to get out themselves.

"It's like the place is closed down," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. "There's been no communication from the leadership. There's no indication who the leadership is."

At the State Department, spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler called the situation in Beijing "tense and unsettled."

She acknowledged there may be dissension within the Chinese armed forces and a U.S. intelligence source, commenting on the grounds of anonymity said, "What we're seeing, first, is a political struggle, the outlines of which are very vague. Plus there is a serious division" within the Chinese Army leadership.

Fitzwater said the U.S. Embassy has been in contact only with mid-level Chinese officials but has had "no contact with the top-level people, and we've tried."

"The assumption is that the top-level people have moved out to other locations. We tend to believe it."

Tutwiler, meanwhile, referring to the shooting of hundreds of students demonstrating for democracy, told reporters:

"We have reason to believe that all elements of the Army do not support what is taking place. We have no firm evidence of armed clashes."

The Chinese capital was threatened with civil war as armies loyal to rival political factions were reported battling in the city.

The U.S. intelligence source said his information was that Army units from Beijing had refused to move against the students even as Army elements from Nanjing carried out Sunday's bloody attack.

"We're hearing all the reports of shooting between Army units, but we have not confirmed that ourselves," the source added.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III decided to encourage Americans to leave Beijing after a long telephone conversation Monday night with James Lilley, the U.S. ambassador there.

Order restored in Fergana Valley after ethnic riots

MOSCOW (AP) — Haggling in a Central Asian bazaar over the price of strawberries sparked a spasm of ethnic violence, arson attacks and rampages by ax-wielding mobs in which 50 people were killed, Uzbekistan's Communist Party chief reported Tuesday.

Rafik Nishanov told lawmakers in Moscow that authorities had re-established "full control" in the Fergana Valley 1,500 miles southeast of Moscow following more than a week of bloody clashes between Uzbeks and members of an ethnic Turkish minority, the Meskhi. But he indicated the situation was still explosive.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said 6,000 internal security troops had been sent

to restore order in the Fergana Valley, a national center of grape and cotton growing.

Some of the 12,000 Meskhi in the area were evacuated Sunday and Monday to a military garrison to be housed in barracks under guard, the Uzbek leader said in nationally televised remarks.

The violence between the two Moslem groups was the latest outbreak of Soviet ethnic unrest. Its roots could be traced to the brutal policies of Josef Stalin, who uprooted the entire population of 300,000 Meskhi from their homeland in Soviet Georgia in November 1944 and deported them to the east under pretext of evacuation as the Germans approached.

The Meskhi began to demand in 1956 that they be allowed to return to Meskhetia,

their homeland in the Caucasus, and Nishanov said they had been pressing their demands harder as the country's new parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, meets in Moscow.

Interior Ministry spokesman, Col. Boris Mikhailov, told the Tass news agency the clashes between Uzbeks and the Meskhi Turks began May 23, when a fight provoked by "extremists" in the city of Kuvasai near the border of Soviet Kirghizia caused the death of one man and injured 60 others.

Last Saturday, Mikhailov said, "about 200 hooligans armed with metal rods, sticks and bottles filled with gasoline set fire to buildings in the town of Tashlak."

The violence was spawned by "an insignificant, minor conflict" at a market when a Meskhi Turk rudely spoke to a woman selling fruit whose prices he thought were too high, then knocked over her plate of strawberries, Nishanov said.

"Citizens there perceived this as an insult, and a fight started," Nishanov told the Soviet of Nationalities, one of the houses of the bicameral Soviet legislature, during its inaugural session Tuesday.

Tempers enflamed by the marketplace squabble cooled, but Meskhis later attacked a group of Uzbeks and killed one of them, Nishanov said.

Calm was restored, he said. But about a week later, a large group of Uzbeks ranging in age from 15 to 22 and "in high spirits as a result of alcohol or drugs" unexpectedly set

off to attack the homes where the Meskhi live, he said.

Soviet television reported Monday night that the dispute in the Fergana Valley turned into "vicious clashes between thousands of furious people." It said the violence began as an ethnic dispute, but was fueled by chronic local unemployment.

Nishanov told lawmakers that according to information available Tuesday, about 50 people had been killed, including 35 or more Meskhi Turks, 10 Uzbeks, one ethnic Tadzhik and an ethnic Russian who had been among those who "restored order."

Mikhailov told Tass that 200 people suspected of organizing and taking part in the rioting had been detained. A curfew was imposed in the area, Nishanov said.

Leaders discuss Afghanistan's plight

Bush, Bhutto work toward common goal to enhance country's peace

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Tuesday told visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that the United States is willing "to explore any serious avenue" to achieve a political solution in Afghanistan.

Bhutto in turn said after private talks with the president that "we are in complete accord" on the situation in Afghanistan, stalemated since the pullout of the last Soviet troops in February.

Bush said the withdrawal of the Red Army proved the effectiveness of U.S.-Pakistani support for the Afghan resistance fighting the Marxist regime in Kabul. Pakistan shares a common border with Afghanistan.

"Prime Minister Bhutto and I discussed ways to encourage a political solution in Afghanistan that will lead to a non-aligned, representative government willing to live in peace with its neighbors, to replace the illegitimate regime in Kabul," Bush said. "The United

States and Pakistan will continue to explore any serious avenue towards this end."

U.S. officials had anticipated a rapid demise for the government of Najibullah after the Soviet pullout, but it has not happened.

Bhutto said she and Bush "have reviewed the situation in the light of the prevailing circumstances and we are in complete accord" on what needs to be done.

"Pakistan remains committed to a political solution of the Afghan problem, whereby the brave people of Afghanistan will have the right to freely choose their own government without interference from outside," she said.

Bhutto, the daughter of former Prime Minister Ali Bhutto, said that while the Soviet pullout "has brought a welcome change in Afghanistan, the continued fighting and prolonged presence of more than 3.5 million Afghan refugees pose serious threats to the peace and stability of the region."

Researchers find new AIDS drug safe

MONTREAL (AP) — A decoy drug designed to hopelessly confuse the AIDS virus by mimicking its natural target is safe and may lower levels of the lethal virus inside the body, researchers said Tuesday.

Scientists said they were encouraged by the results, but they cautioned that testing is at an early stage, and no one can be sure how effective the medicine will be in stopping AIDS.

"Nevertheless, this represents an exciting step forward," Dr. Ian Weller of Middlesex School of Medicine in England said.

The drug is known as soluble CD4, and it is one of more than a dozen currently being used experimentally against the AIDS virus.

So far, only one medicine, AZT, has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use



against HIV, the AIDS virus. While it can prolong the lives of people with AIDS, it does not cure the disease, and it has a variety of toxic side effects.

"It's clear that we desperately need alternative treatments to AZT," Dr. Thomas Merigan of Stanford University said.

Reports on CD4 and other potential AIDS drugs were presented at the 5th International Conference on AIDS, the major annual meeting to review progress against the epidemic.

Dr. James Mason, U.S. assistant secretary for health, said progress in drug development "is another success in our war against this terrible infection."

Mason also said it is increasingly important to set up voluntary programs to contact sexual partners of HIV-infected people so they will know of their risk of catching the virus.

Khomeini's burial ends after mourners snatch, destroy shroud

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was buried Tuesday after a day of tumult in which frenzied mourners snatched the shroud from their revered leader's body and tore it to shreds for holy relics.

Thousands of Revolutionary Guards and civilians jostled around the grave at the Baheshte Zahra cemetery, raising clouds of dust, as Khomeini's body was finally laid to rest at 4:45 p.m.

A television announcer, his voice hoarse with emotion, chanted "Father, don't leave your children! Oh father don't leave your beloved!" as the crowd surged toward the grave. People wept and beat their heads and chests with clenched fists in the Shiite Moslem expression of bereavement.

Soldiers passed concrete slabs over the sea of mourners and laid them across the grave, a shallow pit in a 100-square-yard section of the vast cemetery where men who died in the Islamic revolution and the 8-year war with Iraq are buried.

A crane lowered a metal freight container onto the grave to prevent people from grabbing handfuls of dirt from it and possibly unearthing the body.

Guns roared a last salute to the 86-year-old patriarch who toppled a 2,500-year-old monarchy in 1979 and transformed Iran into a militant Islamic state. For the moment, at least, no special marker was put on the grave.

Earlier in the day, mourners blocked the path of a van carrying the body in an open coffin from the square where it had lain in state for 24 hours in an air-conditioned glass casket.

Mourners scrambling for mementos grabbed the tightly wrapped white shroud in which Moslems are buried and tore it to shreds. The body fell to the ground and was taken to an ambulance.

State television later showed mourners grabbing at the body and shroud, exposing the feet, then the broadcast was cut off abruptly.

"The people love the imam too much," a young man at the scene said. "They cannot bear to see him buried." He said they wanted pieces of the shroud "as sacred relics."

Iranians refer to Khomeini as the imam, or spiritual leader.

The coffin was transferred to a military helicopter, but the crowd rushed forward as it tried to land. As the helicopter flew away with the coffin protruding from its open door, the crowd was told the burial had been postponed.

Three hours later, however, a helicopter landed the rewrapped body in a metal casket. Hashemi Rafsanjani, the parliament speaker, and Khomeini's son Ahmad accompanied the body and oversaw the burial.

Ahmad was knocked down in the earlier melee around the coffin and lost his black turban. He looked pale and dazed as he was hoisted above the crowd and passed from hand to hand to an ambulance.

Women clad in head-to-toe black chadors rubbed shoulders with men despite the Islamic prohibition of physical contact between a woman and any man other than her husband.

Firemen sprayed the crowd with jets of water from fire hoses.

Most of Tehran's six million people appeared to be in the streets Tuesday, and official media said millions more came from other regions to bid Khomeini farewell. About two million mourners had kept a night-long vigil around the bier in Mousalam Mosque, 22 miles north of the cemetery.

Permits to park available until Friday, June 9

The last day to purchase and pick up parking permits is Friday, June 9.

Students can pay for the permits, which are \$20, with cash or credit cards, or have the fee added to their fee statements.

Summer permits are good until the end of summer school in August, and are available from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the ticket windows at G. Rollie White Coliseum.